

53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Company C

"The Sentinel" March 2017

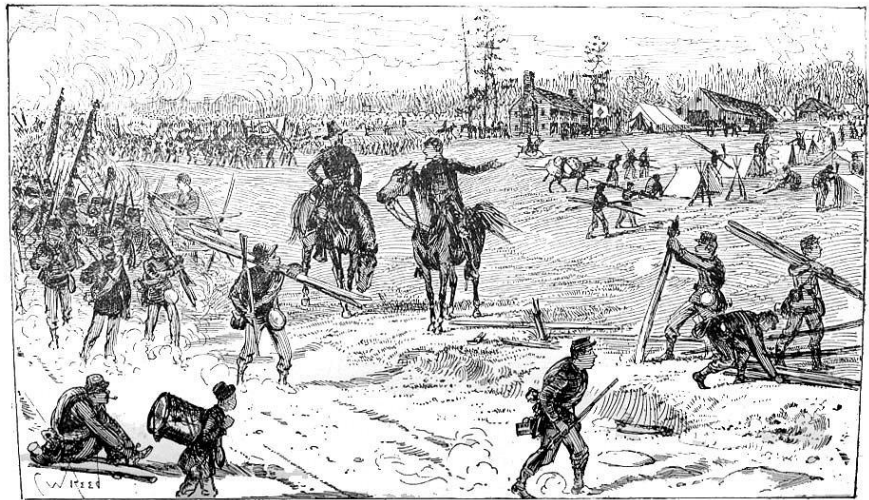
Newsletter of The James Creek Guards



"Clubs Are Trump!"

This Month:

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Editor's note: I have taken over the newsletter duties from Ryan. Thank you to Ryan for your service as newsletter editor. If any members have topics, ideas, or even better yet, content, please pass it my way as I am looking for content for future newsletters. The purpose of the newsletter is to ensure that 53rd PVI members are up to speed with the regimental happenings, ensure information about future events is well publicized, and provide some entertainment & education pertinent to our hobby. -Matt Steger

Duties of the Sergeants and Corporals

At the National Regiment (NR) Officer/NCO School, a presentation was given about the Duties of the NCOs. This is a general overview of the duties of the NCOs during the Civil War and how they are relevant to today's Civil War reenactors. This information is important for all re-enactors to know.

- NCOs should look after the health, well-being, and safety of their men. That means making sure they get home after the event safe and sound.
- The NCOs should be well-versed on the manuals of arms, facings, loading and firing, and stacking of arms. They should also be effective in the operation of the company including organization, discipline, and overseeing work details.
- NCOs deserve the respect of their men and their commands to their men should be obeyed and performed in a timely manner.

Corporals:

- Corporals should know the drill and instruct their men in the school of the soldier including giving instructions and training. The Corporals should set an example for the men

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Duties of the Sergeants and Corporals

and should be the first to fall in ranks and should be fully prepared. They should set an example of being neat and clean with their clothing and equipment. Within ranks, the Corporals should march with great skill while being silent.

- Corporals are in charge of fatigue duties and are the platoon leaders.
- Besides training the men and setting an example, another major function of Corporals is their policing duties within camp including Corporal of the Guard (their most important duty). Corporals should be in charge of the relief, know the duties of the sentinels, respond to calls, and make sure the sentinels know and perform their duties.
- Corporals should be familiar with the duties of the Sergeant and must be ready to fill in for a Sergeant when they are absent.

Sergeants:

- Their first duty is to know the duties of the Corporals and supervise and train the Corporals. Sergeants have more general supervision of the men, while Corporals are more responsible for the details. Sergeants command larger police and fatigue duties.
- In line, Sergeants act as file closers which is their most important duty. Sergeants preserve order, ensure men are marching properly (lines straight and keeping proper spacing) and remain in the ranks.
- Sergeants should make sure canteens are filled (filling the canteens is the duty of privates) and their men are properly eating.
- Above the Sergeants, is the 1st Sergeant. The 1st Sergeant is the most responsible of all of the NCOs. He is, in essence, the company's "Mother Hen". He is the immediate supervisor of the company and should ensure that orders are properly carried out. He also is responsible for calling rolls and producing the morning report. The 1st Sergeant is responsible for the formation of the company and assigns all details including keeping a log of details and distributing work evenly amongst the men. The 1st Sgt. must be ready to step up to command the company in the event of the absence of all officers for whatever reason.
- The 1st Sgt. should also keep the company books by supervising the company clerk.
- A roll call should be done as soon as practical after a 'battle'; as soon as the men are back in camp, the 1st Sgt. (or other 'surviving' NCO) should call the roll. Once completed, a list of missing men should be given to the other NCOs with instructions to check at the medical locations, then return to camp to report their findings.
- Roll call, by regulation, is supposed to be called at least 3 times per day:
 1. right after reveille
 2. at retreat
 3. just before taps (tattoo)
 4. there should also be a roll call done right after an engagement
- While in the ranks, such as for a modern firing demonstration, the Sergeants first job function is a safety observer. He should carefully watch the men while they are loading and firing. If there is an issue with an unsafe loading or firing practice or a non-firing weapon, the Sergeant's responsibility is to handle the situation to ensure everyone is safe.

A word from our president.....

Gentlemen,

First, let me say thank you to Matt Steger for taking on the Company newsletter. It's a job that often goes unrecognized. Also, thank you to Ryan Rentschler for his commitment to the newsletter over the past year. I hope that everyone is anxious to start the new campaign season! We had a great 2016 and 2017 has a lot to look forward to. By now, everyone should know the proposed schedule for the year.

We have a good turnout committed to New Market already. If anyone missed the early group registration and plans to attend I encourage you to register ASAP. It's not a long distance to travel but if we can get some carpools planned let's do so. It might help those who may be on the fence about attending. I want to point out that we continue to have the group support from ELF Co and the 1st MN at our events (Landis Valley and Gettysburg living histories). Let's remember to look at their schedules and offer them as much support as we can. I'll be passing along some specific info about a couple of their events in the coming days. If anyone wishes to attend one of their events and need contact info for Nick Grimm or James Owens please let me know. I will be starting a communication circle with ELF, 1st MN and our NCO's this week regarding Landis Valley. I've already spoken individually with a few folks to get the wheels turning in preparation for this event. As I mentioned at the annual business meeting, if you have any suggestions please let me know so I can pass them along to the event commanders. I will be meeting with Landis Valley in the next week or so to start laying the groundwork for the event and I would like to give Tim some idea of the direction we would like to take things.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome home Travis Shick! As most of you know, Travis was deployed to the Middle East for most of 2016. We had the pleasure to have him finally rejoin our ranks at the winter drill event a few weeks ago. We are forever grateful to you and your family for the sacrifice you make for us as citizens of this great country.

Clubs are trump!

Eric

Upcoming events -

53rd Monument Cleanup info -

1 April 2017 10AM Place: 53rd PVI Monument - Brooke Avenue (Gettysburg NMP)

Monument Dedicated 11 September 1889 and consists of an 8'7" tall statue of a fully equipped infantryman supported by a 9' 7" tall granite base. The members of the 53rd tend to the grounds around our monument removing debris (branches, leaves, etc.). Bring loupers, rakes, small hand saws, work gloves, etc. The day often dissolves into a battlefield tour and/or other historic activities.

New Market Event info -

20~21 May 2017 - 153rd Anniversary Battle of New Market

More info: <http://www.vmi.edu/museums-and-archives/virginia-museum-of-the-civil-war/the-reenactment/registration-form>

2017 Calendar of Events -



4 February – Winter Drill – Landis Valley Museum – Lancaster

25 February – Cartridge Rolling Party

25–26 February – NR Officer/NCO School of Instruction – Gettysburg

1 April – 53rd Monument Cleanup – Gettysburg, PA

6 - 9 April – 155th Shiloh Reenactment – Shiloh, TN

29 - 30 April – Spring Drill– Antietam (ELF Event)

5 - 7 May – 155th McDowell Reenactment – McDowell, VA

20 - 21 May – New Market Reenactment – New Market, VA (NR Event)

20 - 21 May – Army Heritage Days – USAHEC – Carlisle, PA

29 May - Memorial Day Parade – Hummelstown

2 - 4 June – On to Richmond – Richmond, VA

24 - 25 June – Corbitt’s Charge – Westminster, MD

1 - 4 July – Gettysburg (GAC) Reenactment – Yingling Farm – Gettysburg

15 - 16 July – Civil War Days at the Winery – Manassas, VA

22 - 23 July – Landis Valley Museum ‘Civil War Days’ – Lancaster

30 July – Gruber Wagon Works – Berks County, PA

15 - 17 September – South Mountain Reenactment – Burkittsville, MD

7 - 8 October – Gettysburg Living History – Spanglers Spring – Gettysburg NMP

14 - 15 October – Battle of Cedar Creek Reenactment – Middletown, VA

5 November – 53rd Monument Cleanup – Gettysburg NMP

18 November – Remembrance Day Parade – Gettysburg

2 December – Annual Membership Meeting

(**RED** colored events are considered 53rd PVI 'Max Effort' events)

(**GREEN** colored events are NR 'Max Effort' events)

"Get To Know Your Pard"

The purpose of this segment is to help the members of the 53rd learn a little more about a '53rd member of the month'. I hope to feature a different member every month or so, assuming each member in the unit is willing to tell us a little about himself. We have likely learned something about each of our pards (little or a lot) over time while sitting around the camp fire at events, but this feature should help us dive a little deeper. Since I am the newsletter editor and I just created this segment, I guess I'll go first...


This Month... **Matthew Steger**

10 Questions:

- 1. Where were you born? Erie, PA**
- 2. How long have you been re-enacting? Since 2001.**
- 3. What is your favorite part of the hobby? Educating the public about the life of the Federal Civil War Infantry Solider and clearing up a lot of misconceptions.**
- 4. What was the first Civil War-related kit item that you bought? "US" belt plate that I still use (bought around 1990)**

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"Get To Know Your Pard" (continued from page 4)

5. Have you ever taken part of a Civil War movie , TV, or other production? **"Gods and Generals" - I even had my own little scene. At the start of 13 December 1862, Buster mentions that he'd like a cup of coffee. They immediately show me making coffee at a camp fire facing the camera and then I get up and walk away. Due to a production error, that exact same scene (me at the camp fire) shows up again about 2 minutes later.**
6. Do you have a favorite or most memorable CW event? **Gettysburg 150th as part of the NPS invite of the NR. A close 2nd was the Harrison's Landing 140th event I did as part of the 83rd PVI.**
7. Do you have any other non-Civil War hobbies? **Golf, hockey, amateur radio.**
8. Do you have a Civil War photo (wet-plate or tin-type image) to share? 
9. What do you do (or did you do, if retired) for a living? **Home Inspector and Engineer**
10. Favorite Saying? **"Common sense is not so common."**



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